those political bands which had connected them to the Union, they found their "right" and "duty" to do so was not recognized by the government that the Declaration had helped form. Their freedom, so celebrated in the Declaration of Independence, had been tempered by the Constitution and courts into something less than the sovereignty they believed it to be.

July 2, for all its patriotic luster of 1776, marks a particularly sad anniversary 87 years later — 132 years ago today. On July 2, 1863, the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of the Potomac were locked in the middle of the three deadliest days of fighting in American history in the southeast Pennsylvania crossroads town of Gettysburg. The battle resulted in 53,000 casualties; the war, some 1.2 million.

The War Between the States did, however, accomplish a piece of business left unfinished in that Philadelphia meeting room. Jefferson's original draft had called for an end to slavery, but that measure was stonewalled by his fellow Southerners, who threatened to walk out if the language remained. To salvage the revolution, the Congress jettisoned abolition — a regret that long dwelt with Jefferson.

So, what then is the product of this years. The "people," in whose name the founders acted, still wrestle with great questions of their own, not the least of which are just how much the federal government can limit the rights of one person to enhance the rights of another, and just how free and independent the states will be within the federal framework.

No matter, for the people we celebrate today — Jefferson, Adams, the signers and the other founders — knew that these questions would not soon be settled. That's why they "appeal[ed] to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of [their] intentions . . . with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence . . ." to oversee their endeavors.

And so, as a nation, we plod along, seeking guidance from these courts at each juncture on our journey to democracy. Adams was right. Two hundred and thirteen years ago a great question was answered. But an even greater one remains unanswered: How can the people whose welfare Adams considered so carefully be safeguarded from an onslaught of diminished freedoms often crafted by the government itself?

Go back to the document. Read the eloquent words. Practice the principles that Adams believed the document evoked. The premise is indeed still stately. But the product will always be our responsibility.

Jim Strang is national editor of The Plain Dealer.

Eagles

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"Come here. I got ya," Case says as he gently nudges the eaglet forward. "It's almost over now."

Case puts one arm around the bird. He wraps blue surgical gauze around its talons to protect himself as well as the eaglet before he puts the bird into an orange sack and lowers it to the ground where the examination team waits.

"Some get really excited, but these birds seem real calm," Case says. "Some can put up a ferocious front. They get in a position to use their talons. That's pretty intimidating and, depending on how old they are, that can be pretty effective.

"They will struggle a little to get loose. Bald eagles are biters and you have to watch that. Others, once you get a hold of them, seem to calm down."

On the ground, biologists Shieldcastle and Henry place the birds on a blanket and spread their wings. Metal ID bands are locked on each leg — one state and one federal. The scientists draw blood and measure the birds, which are breathing heavily but otherwise handle the examination well.

The young eagle's brown feathers, black beak and dark eyes will change during the next four years, gradually acquiring the familiar white hood and tail feathers, yellow beak and yellow eyes. Bald eagles can live as long as 50 years, but most live about 20 years in the wild.

Each nest is monitored daily by Division of Wildlife county officers and volunteers like Thom Hans, a hefty former Marine from Akron who drives a motorcycle to the Lake Rockwell nest area.

"Other than the rangers, I'm the only one who gets to see what's going on here," Hans says as he watches Henry and Shieldcastle draw blood from the eaglets. "I've got a spot where I set up a hammock between two trees. I'm a musician, so I write a lot of classical music."

After poking, prodding and picture taking, the young eagles are sent one by one to the nest where Case is waiting.

"This never gets old," says Case, who has had more contact with bald eagles than any other Ohioan. "These are bald eagles. It's a really impressive animal and there's a great deal of satisfaction knowing we are accomplishing something in conservation," he says. "We were in danger of losing our entire Ohio population of eagles and we've been able to reverse that to the point where people are going out to see them and enjoy knowing they're part of the state."

Great

Continued from Page 12

rules that established a relationship among God, the governed and the governors, Jefferson enumerated the grievances that had brought about this revolution; 18 specific "injuries and usurpations" on the part of King George III, all directly intended, Jefferson wrote, to establish tyranny.

(A personal favorite, No. 10: "He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance. . . .")

The premise was that a "people," exercising God-given rights both named and unnamed, could dissolve the government that bound them to another "people." Unstated in the Declaration, but equally clear in the mind of each of its signers, was the realization that words alone would not accomplish this divinely ordained liberty; shot, shell and personal sacrifice would be the means of its realization.

Also unstated was the political verity that the Declaration of Independence, no matter its universality and stirring phrases, would work its political magic only once on this continent. Eight decades later, when 11 southern states in their own pursuit of happiness no longer consented to be governed from Washington, decided that the time had come to dissolve literary and political masterpiece? Look around you: It is a work still in progress, in which you daily play a role. It is first a nation free of the royal ties that bound it to the whim of an overseas master, but now is bound to that country and others through impenetrable webs of treaties and agreements — what George Washington might have called "entangling alliances" — of its own chosen creation.

It is a country whose citizens enjoy a level of political freedoms in speech and action undreamed of throughout most of the history of mankind, yet whose leaders, fearful of what might transpire given untrammeled worldwide communication through technologies that no standing army can challenge, wish to install "spy" chips in U.S.-made computers and telecommunications equipment.

And it is a land where a federal bureaucracy has grown to resemble that "multitude of new offices" populated by the "swarms of officers" sent hither to "harass our people and eat out their substance" that Jefferson so reviled. Yet, as evidenced by periodic upheavals in that great body politic — the most recent of which washed over the land last November — there remains hope that the barnacles that slow this ship of state can still be chipped off by the hands of the people in whose name that ship sails.

Yes, the "great question" of which Adams spoke — freedom from king and crown — has been settled for 213

ADULT BALD EAGLE PAIRS

Numbers represent pairs of adult eagles that are occupying a territory (nesting area) in 1994. Pairs are not necessarily actively nesting or breeding. Because juvenile bald eagles (less than 4 years old) are not

Alabama	11	Nebraska	5
Arizona	28	Nevada	0
Arkansas	20	New Hampshire	0
California	116	New Jersey	10
Colorado	17	New Mexico	2
Connecticut	1	New York	23
Delaware	10	North Carolina	10
Florida	764	North Dakota	1
Georgia	24	Ohio	26
Idaho	76	Oklahoma	14
Illinois	10	Oregon	230
Indiana	11	Pennsylvania	19
Iowa	32	Rhode Island	0
Kansas	5	South Carolina	101
Kentucky	8	South Dakota	2
Louisiana	90	Tennessee	21
Maine	175	Texas	40
Maryland	159	Utah	0
Massachusetts	9	Vermont	0
Michigan	269	Virginia	167
Minnesota	612	Washington	544
Mississippi	10	West Virginia	5
Missouri	14	Wisconsin	533
Montana	156	Wyoming	70

SOURCE: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service PLAIN DEALER